



## Waukesha County

# *Humane Officer's Corner*

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Waukesha County receives funding from local dog license collections. These funds are used to pay humane officers, and supply their equipment needs. Compliance levels for dog licensing are currently very low (approx. 20%). Please make sure you license your dog every year. It is one way you can help improve life for all the animals in our community. Take the current Proof of Rabies certificate from your vet to your local city, village or town hall and they will complete the licensing process. It's quick, nearby, and it is the law. Thanks for your compliance.

### **6 Great Reasons to License Your Dog**

1. **Identification:** This tag not only identifies your dog to shelter staff or law enforcement officers, it also is linked to a computer database. This tag can get lost pets home faster!
2. **Proof of Rabies:** The Waukesha County dog license serves as proof of rabies in case of bite incidents.
3. **It's the Law:** All dogs over 5 months old MUST be licensed every year. Failure to do so can result in fines over \$100.
4. **Helpful Information:** The database linked to dog license numbers helps shelter workers handle lost pets. If your dog is wearing its dog license, shelter staff will know your pet's name. This can help a lot when handling a lost, possibly injured pet.
5. **Funding Animal Cruelty Investigations:** Dog license fees fund animal cruelty, abuse and neglect investigations. Just by licensing your dog, you are helping relieve suffering for many animals.
6. **Education Programs:** Animal bite prevention programs and humane animal education presentations are also funded by dog license revenues.

**We've heard it all! Here are 6 common excuses we hear for not licensing a dog, and why your pet still needs a current license.**

1. **My dog hates to wear a collar...** Your dog would likely also hate to be lost without a license...she or he might not return to you! With a bit of training, any dog can wear a collar and license.
2. **My rabies tag from my veterinarian is my license...** No, it is not. Dog licenses are obtained from your municipality and are available year round.
3. **My dog never leaves the yard...** Local humane societies impound over 2000 stray animals each year.

4. **If my dog gets lost, I'll find her at the shelter...** A licensed dog has a much better chance of getting home. What if your pet gets hit by a car, and is not at the shelter? An injured stray dog wearing a license will be promptly treated if taken to a veterinarian. **A dog license is a phone call home for a dog without a quarter!!**
5. **My dog has been roaming for 10 years without a license...** We're very happy your dog hasn't been hurt. Keeping your dog licensed and safely confined eliminates the chance of fines, and improves neighbor relations.
6. **I can't afford a license...** The cost of a dog license is minimal. Fines for unlicensed dogs are costly. Given the advantages of having a current dog license...you can't afford not to get one!